

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.       A method for distributing information to a plurality of conditional  
2 access receivers with a plurality of different signature checking capabilities, the method  
3 comprising:

4                   generating a first signature over the information;  
5                   generating a second signature over the information;  
6                   sending the first and second signatures to the plurality of conditional  
7 access receivers; and  
8                   sending the information to the plurality of conditional access receivers.

1                   2.       The method for distributing information to the plurality of  
2 conditional access receivers with the plurality of different signature checking capabilities  
3 as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

4                   receiving the first signature associated with the information at a  
5 conditional access receiver;  
6                   receiving the second signature associated with the information at the  
7 conditional access receiver;  
8                   determining a signature checking capability of the conditional access  
9 receiver;  
10                  choosing one of the first and second signatures;  
11                  calculating a third signature over the information; and  
12                  comparing the third signature to one of the first and second signatures.

1                   3.       The method for distributing information to the plurality of  
2 conditional access receivers with the plurality of different signature checking capabilities  
3 as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

4                   generating a checksum over at least the information; and  
5                   sending the checksum to the plurality of conditional access receivers.

1                   4.       The method for distributing information to the plurality of  
2 conditional access receivers with the plurality of different signature checking capabilities  
3 as recited in claim 1, wherein the sending the first and second signatures and sending the  
4 information comprise sending the same message.

1                   5.       The method for distributing information to the plurality of  
2 conditional access receivers with the plurality of different signature checking capabilities  
3 as recited in claim 1, wherein:

4                   the plurality of conditional access receivers includes a first and second  
5 conditional access receivers;

6                   the first conditional access receiver uses a first signature algorithm  
7 different from a second signature algorithm used by the second conditional access  
8 receiver.

1                   6.       The method for distributing information to the plurality of  
2 conditional access receivers with the plurality of different signature checking capabilities  
3 as recited in claim 1, wherein the information comprises a software object.

1                   7.       The method for distributing information to the plurality of  
2 conditional access receivers with the plurality of different signature checking capabilities  
3 as recited in claim 1, wherein the information comprises authorization information.

1                   8.       A method for distributing information to a plurality of conditional  
2 access receivers with a plurality of different signature checking capabilities, comprising:  
3                   receiving a first signature associated with a message at a conditional  
4 access receiver;  
5                   receiving a second signature associated with the message at the conditional  
6 access receiver;  
7                   choosing one of the first and second signatures;  
8                   calculating a third signature over the message; and  
9                   comparing the third signature to one of the first and second signatures.

1                   9.       The method for distributing information to the plurality of  
2 conditional access receivers with the plurality of different signature checking capabilities  
3 as recited in claim 8, further comprising:

4                   generating the first signature over the message at a location remote to the  
5 conditional access receiver;

6                   generating the second signature over the message at the location remote to  
7 the conditional access receiver;

8 sending the first and second signatures to the plurality of conditional  
9 access receivers; and  
10 sending the message to the plurality of conditional access receivers.

1 10. The method for distributing information to the plurality of  
2 conditional access receivers with the plurality of different signature checking capabilities  
3 as recited in claim 8, further comprising determining a signature checking capability of  
4 the conditional access receiver.

1 11. The method for distributing information to the plurality of  
2 conditional access receivers with the plurality of different signature checking capabilities  
3 as recited in claim 8, wherein the third signature corresponds to a security level that  
4 excludes one or more of the plurality of conditional access receivers from the security  
5 level.

1 12. The method for distributing information to the plurality of  
2 conditional access receivers with the plurality of different signature checking capabilities  
3 as recited in claim 8, further comprising generating a checksum over at least the message.

1 13. The method for distributing information to the plurality of  
2 conditional access receivers with the plurality of different signature checking capabilities  
3 as recited in claim 8, further comprising:  
4 calculating a fourth signature over the message; and  
5 comparing the fourth signature to one of the first and second signatures.

1 14. A computer message stream embodied in at least one carrier wave  
2 for providing for authentication of the computer message stream, comprising:  
3 a data segment comprising an object;  
4 a first signature segment comprising a first signature over the data  
5 segment; and  
6 a second signature segment comprising a second signature over the data  
7 code segment.

1 15. The computer message stream embodied in at least one carrier  
2 wave for providing for authentication of the computer message stream as recited in claim

3 14, further comprising an authorization segment comprising authorization information for  
4 the object.

1 16. The computer message stream embodied in at least one carrier  
2 wave for providing for authentication of the computer message stream as recited in claim  
3 14, further comprising an integrity segment comprising a string characteristic of the  
4 object and other portions of the computer message stream.

1 17. The computer message stream embodied in at least one carrier  
2 wave for providing for authentication of the computer message stream as recited in claim  
3 14, wherein the data segment is sent at a different time than at least one of the first and  
4 second signature segments.

1 18. The computer message stream embodied in at least one carrier  
2 wave for providing for authentication of the computer message stream as recited in claim  
3 14, wherein the data segment is coupled to a first carrier wave and at least one of the first  
4 and second signature segments is coupled to a second carrier wave.